GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:157
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
DETENTION OF WAGONS LOADED WITH TIMBER
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two hundred wagons loaded with sawn timber sold during October 1999-January 2000 in public auction as orders of Hon`ble Supreme Court were later detained;

(b) if so , the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a thorough inquiry has been conducted into the whole episode; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (d) On receipt of information about transport of illegal timber from North - Eastern Region in the garb of legal timber, physical verification of about 200 wagons loaded with timber was got done. During physical verification and subsequent investigation, significant irregularities and illegalities were found. For detailed investigation and follow up action, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted. The investigations revealed that large scale illegal timber was transported in garb of legal timber. After necessary investigation, issues of show cause notices and personal hearings, final decisions in respect of about 198 wagons have so far been taken by the Special Investigation Team for confiscation of illegal timber, imposition of penalty and action against those responsible for various irregularities / illegalities.